

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations  
and is not a part of the Official Record

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,  
please do not report the images to the  
Image Problem Mailbox.**

3611  
PATENT

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE  
IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL  
SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE  
ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR  
PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231 ON

12/31/2001  
RECEIVED  
RECEIVED  
RECEIVED

October 30, 2001

Anita J. Malo  
SIGNATURE

10/30/01  
DATE

#3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Christian Lorenz ID  
Serial No. : 09/963, 909 ASW  
Filing Date : September 26, 2001 JAN  
For : VEHICLE STEERING WHEEL 8/2002  
Art Unit : 3611  
Examiner : Not Assigned RECEIVED  
Attorney Docket : TRW (ASG) 5930 JAN 08 2002

GROUP 3

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, and in compliance with CFR §1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, pending applications, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed. Applicant(s) make no admission that the enclosed documents are prior art to the present invention.
2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a corresponding U.S. Patent is enclosed or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth on an attached sheet.

3. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

(a)  Within three months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.

(b)  Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

(c)  After the period set forth in 37 CFR §1.97(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

1)  A certification is given below,

2)  Enclosed is a check covering the fee (\$180.00) set forth in §1.17(p) for consideration of this Statement, or

3)  Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

(d)  After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. The required certification and fee is indicated below.

1)  Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) \$180, or

2)  Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

4. Certification (if applicable):

(a)  The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

(b)  The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry no item of information contained in the Statement, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, fees underpaid, or credit any overpayment with regard to this Statement to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

6. Concise Explanation (if needed):

(1)  Below is a Concise Statement of Relevance of enclosed non-English language document(s).

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Relevance</u>
DE 20 13 795 B2	Discloses a steering wheel which has a steering wheel hub, a steering wheel rim and two spokes consisting of spoke sections. Ball joints including damping elements are each provided between the spoke sections themselves, as well as at the transition points of the spoke to the steering wheel rim and to the steering wheel hub, respectively.

Patent No.

DE 199 08 916 A1

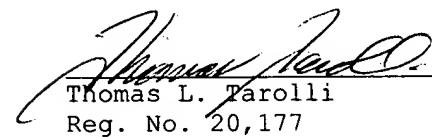
Relevance

See attached English  
Abstract.

JP 09-226602

See attached Japanese  
Abstract. Also, see  
attached English Abstract.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Thomas L. Tarolli  
Reg. No. 20,177

TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL,  
TUMMINO & SZABO L.L.P.  
1111 Leader Building  
526 Superior Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44114-1400  
Phone: (216) 621-2234  
Fax: (216) 621-4070